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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 008356

SIPDIS

AF/RA FOR NICOLE PEACOCK, USAID/AFR/SD/DG FOR MELISSA
ROSSER, DRL, USAID/AFR/DP, NAIROBI FOR AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: DHRF FY 2001 FUNDING REQUEST

REF: STATE 216032

1. EMBASSY KINSHASA REQUESTS \$131,100 FOR SEVEN SMALL DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FUND (DHRF) PROJECTS IN FY 2001, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$15,000 FOR UNIDENTIFIED PROJECTS, BRINGING THE TOTAL REQUEST TO \$146,100. THE LUSAKA PEACE PROCESS, INCLUDING PLANS FOR AN INTER-CONGOLESE DIALOGUE, HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR WITH SOME PROGRESS. DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS CONTINUE TO SENSITIZE THE POPULATION TO THESE ISSUES AND TO PUSH FOR PEACE, RECONCILIATION, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE. AS IN THE PAST, OUR FY2001 DHRF REQUEST PUTS A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF CONGO.

2. DHRF PROJECTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WORK OF THE EMBASSY AND OUR MISSION OBJECTIVES IN THE CONGO. GIVEN THE TENUOUS POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CONGO, DHRF PROJECTS ARE MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE. SUPPORTING PEACE THROUGH THE LUSAKA PROCESS AND ENCOURAGING A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION THROUGH THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ARE KEY TO THE MISSION GOALS OF PROMOTING REGIONAL STABILITY AND DEMOCRACY. MOREOVER, CONGO HAS EXPERIENCED SERIOUS AND EXTENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS, VIOLATIONS WHICH CONTINUE TODAY. EMBASSY RELIES ON THE MANY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO DOCUMENT THESE VIOLATIONS AND WORK TOWARD IMPROVING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONGO. THERE IS ALSO A SERIOUS NEED FOR PROJECTS THAT EDUCATE THE POPULATION WITH REGARD TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. DESPITE THE MANY RECENT CHALLENGES TO ADMINISTERING DHRF PROJECTS IN CONGO (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT GIVE EVERY CONSIDERATION TO FUNDING 2001 PROJECTS, AS THE RECIPIENTS PERFORM FUNCTIONS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE WORK OF THE EMBASSY AND OUR MISSION OBJECTIVES IN THE COUNTRY.

3. PROPOSED DHRF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2001 COMPLEMENT OTHER USG ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING USAID-MANAGED GREAT LAKES JUSTICE INITIATIVE (GLJI) FUNDS IMPLEMENTED BY IFES (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ELECTION SYSTEMS) AND THE LAW GROUP.

4. FY 2001 PROJECT PROPOSALS:

A. CENTRE D'ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES SCIENTIFIQUES (CERES); PRESIDENT - FLAVIEN MUPEPE. REQUEST: USD 5,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: ORGANIZING A SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIC EDUCATION AND LIBERTIES TO MAKE PEOPLE AVOID VIOLENCE. DHR OBJECTIVE: AROUSING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NEED TO RESIST VIOLENCE.

B. COMITE "DROITS DE L'HOMME, MAINTENANT", CNONGD, CRONGD, CALCC, AGIR POUR LA PAIX, MEDIAS POUR LA PAIX, RECIC, ASSEMBLEES DES ABBES; PRESIDENT - ME MARIE-ANDRE MUILA KAYEMBE. REQUEST: USD 10,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: A WORKSHOP FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ON WAYS OUT OF THE CURRENT DEADLOCK OF THE INTERCONGOLESE DIALOGUE. DHR OBJECTIVE: PRODUCING RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT SITUATION.

C. LIGUE NATIONALE POUR LES ELECTIONS LIBRES ET TRANSPARENTES (LINELIT); PRESIDENT - JEROME BONSO. REQUEST: USD 25,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: CIVIC EDUCATION SEMINARS. DHR OBJECTIVE: PROMOTING SOCIAL AWARENESS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

D. COMITE DES OBSERVATEURS DES DROITS DE L'HOMME; PRESIDENT -- N'SII LUANDA SHANDO. REQUEST: USD 16,100. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: TRAINING 14,000 VOLUNTEERS TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN KINSHASA (VODDHO). DHR OBJECTIVE: RAISING THE NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS-AWARE PEOPLE AMONG THE POPULATION, AND TO TRAIN A CADRE OF REPORTERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

1E. LIGUE DES FEMMES POUR UN DEVELOPPEMENT ENDOGENE DURABLE (LFDED). REQUEST: USD 25,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN FIVE CITIES THROUGHOUT THE CONGO, TO SENSITIZE RURAL COMMUNITIES TO THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN. DHR OBJECTIVE: CIVIC EDUCATION.

1F. ASSOCIATION CONGOLAISE POUR LA PROTECTION DES ENFANTS, ORPHELINS ET ABANDONNES (ACPEOA). REQUEST: USD 25,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: SEMINARS IN KINSHASA TO TRAIN ACTIVISTS IN THE PROTECTION AND RIGHTS OF ORPHANS AND ABANDONED CHILDREN. DHR OBJECTIVE: CREATING AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, CIVIC EDUCATION.

1G. CAMPAGNE DE LA SOCIETE CIVILE POUR LA CULTURE DE LA PAIX (CCPD); PRESIDENTS -- ME BONDO TSHIMBOMBO AND N'SII LUANDA SHANDO. REQUEST: USD 25,000. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: CAMPAIGN FOR SENSITIZING THE POPULATION ON THE ROLE OF MONUC IN ORDER TO END THE WAR IN THE DRC. DHR OBJECTIVE: CAMPAIGN FOR SENSITIZATION AND CIVIC EDUCATION.

15. EMBASSY DOES NOT REQUEST ANY FUNDING FOR PROJECTS OVER \$25,000.

16. EMBASSY REQUESTS AN ADDITIONAL \$15,000 FOR UNIDENTIFIED PROJECTS. THIS WILL PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED FLEXIBILITY IN CHOOSING ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.
SWING